



MEETING THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE

2004
Abstract

“Removing the Stumbling Blocks to Developing the Critical Path”

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One of the key challenges as a planner developing the programmatic critical path schedule on a large project is balancing time spent between working with program personnel and time spent at the computer developing the actual schedule database. However, the understanding of “The Plan” of the overall goals of the program is gained by participating in programmatic activities, thus enabling the planner to prepare and develop a more accurate schedule and critical path. If too much time is spent sequestered away manipulating the schedule; key ideas, decisions, or other information sometimes gets missed.

Even though computers and automated scheduling tools have advanced in technology dramatically over the past years, developing a presentation quality schedule database that is also easy to use takes a lot of time. In addition, with all the various methods of communication available to program personnel to keep the data flow to the scheduler as efficient as possible, nothing beats real time face-to-face communication. This session discusses some of the ideas and concepts that I have learned over the past 17 years that helps simplify and speed up the schedule development and maintenance process which in turn will allow the planner to spend less time behind the computer terminal and more time understanding the critical path. The topics discussed will deal mainly with Microsoft software products, but some of the topics may prove useful with other automated scheduling tools as well.



NASA Project Management Conference